WESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1973

Dr. D.R. Morris MB ChB MFCM, DPH,
Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. G. Carr MRSH MAPHI.
Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population	18,210
Area (Acres) 1st April, 1973	8,497
Number of houses and flats in the area	6,086
Rateable Value (1st April, 1974)	£15,943,822
Sum represented by the Penny Rate (1974/75) Estimated ..	£158,000

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

For the Year 1973

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General)

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	150	142	292
Illegitimate	2	3	5
	152	145	297

Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.3
Local Adjusted Rate	15.3
Comparability Factor	0.94
Illegitimate live births as percentage of total live births ..	1.61%

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Total live and still births 301.

Still Birth Rate 13.00 per 1,000 Live and Still Births.

Birth Rate, England and Wales 1973	13.7
Birth Rate, England and Wales 1972	14.8
Birth Rate, Administrative County of Cheshire 1972	15.2

TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY 1964-73

Year	Rate per 1,000 Births	Year	Rate per 1,000 Births
1964	18.9	1969	22.00
1965	13.00	1970	19.00
1966	16.5	1971	6.00
1967	15.5	1972	7.00
1968	12.00	1973	20.00

TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES 1964-1973

Year	No.	Birth Rate	Year	No.	Birth Rate
1964	317	22.6	1968	335	20.5
1965	307	21.0	1969	323	19.1
1966	362	23.9	1970	317	18.2
1967	321	20.2	1971	320	18.5
			1972	304	17.1
			1973	297	16.3

DEATHS

Males 86 Females 83 Total 169

Death Rate 9.3 Corrected Death Rate 10.1 Comparability Factor 1.

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1964-73 was 156.

Death Rate England and Wales : 12.0 per 1,000.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Rate
All infants, per 1,000 live births	20.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	21.00
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..	Nil
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	7.00
Deaths of infants under 1 week of age	7.00
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (Still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	20.00
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	17.00
Death for Measles (All Ages)	Nil
Death from Whooping Cough (All Ages)	Nil
Death Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	Nil
Death from Cancer (All Ages)	38
Maternal Deaths (including Abortion)	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live Births	Nil
Death from Heart Disease	51
Vascular Disease of Nervous System	30

CAUSE OF DEATH

		Males	Females	Total
1.	Other Infective & Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
2.	Malignant Neoplasm Oesophagus ..	-	1	1
3.	" " Stomach	-	3	3
4.	" " Intestine	2	3	5
5.	" " Lung, Bronchus ..	8	5	13
6.	" " Breast	-	6	6
7.	" " Uterus	-	1	1
8.	" " Prostate	1	-	1
9.	Other Malignant Neoplasms, etc ..	4	3	7
10.	Benion and Unspecified Neoplasms ..	-	1	1
11.	Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
12.	Multiple Sclerosis	-	1	1
13.	Other Diseases of Nervous System etc	-	4	4
14.	Hypertensive Heart Disease	-	1	1
15.	Ischaemic Heart Disease	29	15	44
16.	Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	4	6
17.	Cerebrovascular Disease	12	18	30
18.	Other Disease of Circulatory System	2	2	4
19.	Pneumonia	7	3	10
20.	Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	2	9
21.	Asthma	1	-	1
22.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
23.	Peptic Ulcer	2	-	2
24.	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ..	1	-	1
25.	Other Diseases of Digestive System	2	2	4
26.	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	1	1
27.	Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1
28.	Difficult Delivery and/or Anoxic Condition ..	-	1	1
29.	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	-	1	1
30.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
31.	Suicide & Self-Inflicted Injuries ..	2	-	2
		86	83	169

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

22 Cases of notifiable disease other than Tuberculosis occurred during the year. Details of these are given in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1973.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified										Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
	Total	At ages - Years										
		Under 1 yr.	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and Over		
Scarlet Fever	6	1	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	15	3	3	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infectious Jaundice	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals:	22	4	3	3	7	3	1	-	1	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

All water within the Urban District is supplied by the Wirral Water Board from a mixed source, including water from wells, upland surface reservoirs, and the River Dee. All water supplies are chemically treated.

Routine chemical and bacteriological samples are taken both by the Water Board and this Department. All have been satisfactory.

A private supply of water from an Artesian well serves a private school. Samples obtained have been satisfactory.

Every house has a piped supply from the public mains. Details are given below:-

	Dwelling Houses.	Population.
(a) House direct	6,086.	18,210.
(b) Standpipes	-	-

Consumption.

It is estimated that the water supplied represents a consumption of approximately 40 gallons per head per day.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The number of dwellings without main drainage facilities remains substantially the same. Although many of the sewage installations at these houses are of an obsolescent type, in practice they create no nuisance or pollution, and work satisfactorily. Advice is sought from time to time on these installations when difficulties are encountered, and improvements are carried out on suggestions from the Department.

Drainage problems continue to occur on some of the new private housing estates where there are long runs of 'private sewers'

AREAS IN WHICH MAIN DRAINAGE FACILITIES ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

NESTON	Liverpool Road	19 houses
	The Runnell, Leighton Road	
	Chester High Road	
	Boathouse Lane	42 houses
NESS	The Flashes	7 houses
BURTON	Neston Road	40 houses
	Mudhouse Lane	33 houses
	Dunstan Lane/Woodend Lane	51 houses
	Chester High Road	16 houses
	Wood Lane	8 houses
	Haddon Lane	9 houses
	Mill Lane	5 houses
WILLASTON	Heath Lane	21 houses
	Mill Lane	4 houses
LITTLE NESTON	The Colliery	4 houses

This list includes only properties where development has some sort of coherence or is capable of being served by extension of existing sewers. It does not include all the properties in the urban district which drain to private disposal plants.

Rivers and Streams

From time to time throughout the year, it has been necessary to take action to improve the flow and condition of some watercourses which were impeded. The work has been carried out with the co-operation of the owners.

Open Spaces

The District has some 120.3 acres of public open spaces, together with an additional 25.0 acres being owned privately, but open for public use.

Salvage

The following table shows the weight and value of the material returned to industry during this year:-

Material	Weight			Value
	Tonnes			£.
Waste Paper	202.74			2,629.86
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	£.
Rags	12	9	2	311.87
Non-ferrous metal	1	11	3	95.00
	14	1	1	406.87

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection

The Council operate a weekly collection of refuse from domestic premises, shops, schools etc. Wherever possible a twice weekly collection is maintained for certain food premises, especially in the summer months.

A pilot scheme of sack collection is being continued with, but to date has not been extended.

Civic Amenities collections continue to increase and every encouragement is given to householders to contact the Department for this free service.

The sack collection scheme for garden refuse for which a charge is made continues to expand and fulfil a need.

Refuse Disposal

The system of pulverisation and controlled tipping continues to be used satisfactory.

Factories Act 1961

Inspections				
Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	12	3	-
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9	4	-	-
Total	50	17	3	-

Factories Act 1961
Defects Found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	--	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	8	5	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	5	-	-	-

Housing.

During the year the following progress has been made:-

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of houses erected during 1973:-			
(a) Permanent	16	63	79
(b) Temporary	-	-	-
Number of flats provided in 1973:-	100	-	100
Totals	116	63	179

The progress made since the building programme commenced is shown below -

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945.			
(a) Permanent	738	2959	3697
(b) Temporary	-	5	5
Number of flats provided since 1st August, 1945	245	21	266
Totals	983	2985	3968

Housing.

The accent this year has again been on Improvement of Houses and the number of enquiries and inspections for this purpose has greatly increased.

Improvement Grant.

During the year, 158 applications for grant aid were approved.

Discretionary Grants approved:		155.
Standard Grants approved:-		
(i)	Full Standard (normal limit)	2.
(ii)	Full Standard (higher limit)	1.
(iii)	Reduced Standard	nil.

This year has again seen an increase in the number of enquiries, applications, and approval of Improvement Grants in the private section, together with the commencement of a programme of improvements to all pre-war council owned property.

The Council after consideration of the White Paper 'Better Homes the Next Priority' fixed a ceiling of £300 Gross Rateable Value over which Improvement Grant would not be considered. Difficulties were experienced in drawing and enforcing a deadline for the operation of this Gross Rateable Value but were satisfactorily overcome. Work has commenced towards the declaration of the first General Improvement Area consisting of 92 houses mainly tenanted, and in one ownership.

Inspection and Supervision of Foods.

A good standard of inspection has been maintained this year and the improvement in the general standard of food hygiene in the area continues, with increasing awareness by the general public of the necessity of good food handling.

The public are encouraged to bring all food complaints to the Department, the thorough investigation of which assists in maintaining a good standard within the food trade.

The following sets out the quantity of foodstuffs found not to be fit for human consumption:-

Article.	Weight in lbs.	Reason for Condemnation.
Canned Meats.	169	Blown, leaking and damaged containers.
Canned Fruits.	83	"
Canned Vegetables.	117	"
Canned Fish.	22	"
Canned Soup.	6	"
Canned Milk.	4	"
Other Tinned and Bottled Foods.	186	"
Deep freeze Foodstuffs.	904	Defrosted.
Cereals etc.	2	Infestation of mite and moth.

Milk Supply.

The following samples were submitted for test and the results are as follows:-

Description.	Number of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test.		Turbidity Test.	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	31	24	7	-	-	-	-
Channel Island (Pasteurised)	8	7	1	-	-	-	-
Homogenised	5	5	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilised	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total:	45	36	8	-	-	1	-

Milk Supplies - Brucella Abortus.

Description	Total Submitted	Number Brucella Positive	Penicillin	
			Satis-factory	Unsat-isfac-tory.
Bulk Samples	11	-	11	-
Dealer Sample	-	-	-	-
Individual Cow Samples	-	-	-	-
Total:	11	-	11	-

Food Premises

Type of Business.	Number.
Bakehouses	4
Butchers	9
Cafes and Restaurants	7
Chemists	5
Confectioners	6
Delicatessen	2
Shrimp Dealers	6
Dairies	2
Fishmongers	4
Fried Fish and Chips Saloons	4
Greengrocers	11
Hospitals and Institutions	3
Licensed Premises and Clubs	17
Residential Hotels	4
School Kitchens	11
Supermarkets	6
Sweet Shops	7
Wines and Spirits	6
General Stores	18
Total	132

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

There are two licensed slaughtermen.

Slaughterhouse Act, 1958.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested:

(a) Council Houses nil

(b) Other Houses nil

Number of houses disinfested:-

(a) Council Houses nil

(b) Other Houses nil

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

Registration and General Inspections.

Class of Premises.	Number of premises registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at end of year.	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	1	17	17
Retail Shops	2	83	71
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	3	9	9
Fuel storage depots	-	-	-
Totals:	6	109	97

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace.	Number of persons employed.
Offices	64
Retail Shops	268
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses.	-
Catering Establishments open to the Public	75
Canteens	-
Fuel Storage depots	-
Total	407
Males	101
Females	306

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or In Part.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	nil	nil	9	3128	nil
Number Inspected	-	-	9	3128	nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticeri Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	11	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	834	-
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticeri.	-	-	-	26.6%	-
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcases continued.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis Carcase of which some part of organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-

Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples taken in the Neston Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1973.

Name of Sample	Number Obtained.	Number adultered or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Bread - Milk	1	-
Coldrex Tablets	1	-
Cider	1	-
Champagne Perry	1	-
Corned Beef	1	1
Jijex	1	-
Egg Custard Dessert Mix	1	-
Epsom Salts BP	1	-
Fruit Cocktail in Heavy Syrup	1	-
Flavouring Essence - Peppermint	1	-
Ginger Food Flavouring Compound	1	-
Glace Cherries	1	-
Hake Portions	1	-
Honey	1	-
Irish Stew	1	-
Ice Cream	1	-
Jam - Strawberry	1	-
Lemon Curd	1	-
Lobster Paste	1	-
Milk	32	-
Pumpkin - Unseasoned	1	-
Pork Luncheon Meat	1	-
Pineapple Pieces in Syrup	1	-
Panasorb Tablets	1	-
Rum	1	-
Sliced Bramley Apples with Currants	1	1
Sausages - Pork	2	-
Sausages - Beef	1	-
Sausages - Pork and Beef	1	-
Two Baked Bramley Apples with date stuffing	2	-
Vodka	1	-
Whisky	2	-
	66	2

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Number and Nature of Inspections Made.		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice	
		Statutory	Informal	Complied with	Out-Standing
All Complaints received	Number 1549				
Dwelling Houses					
Public Health Act.	702	2	332	329	21
Housing Act.					
General	52	-	-	-	-
Improvement Grants. Enquiries etc.	1984	-	-	-	-
Multiple Occupation	6	-	1	5	-
Overcrowding and re-housing	9	-	-	-	-
Visits re: Searches	80	-	-	-	-
Infestations	119	-	2	2	-
Animal Boarding Establishments	4	-	-	-	-
Caravans and Sites	3	-	-	-	-
Ditches and Watercourses	20	-	6	7	-
Drainage	96	1	71	72	-
Dustbins	70	-	-	-	-
Factories Act.					
Mechanical Power	12	8	5	4	-
Without Power	1	-	-	-	-
Building Sites	4	-	4	4	-
Outworkers	-	-	-	-	-
Food Premises - Complaints - Food etc.	37				
General Food Hygiene Regs.	121	-	26	47	12
Ice-cream Premises	52	-	2	2	-
Licensed Premises - Clubs etc.	19	-	14	16	4
Mobile Food Premises	30	-	23	20	8
Other Food Premises	41	-	17	16	6
Market Stalls	29	-	8	8	-
Slaughterhouse Visits	112	-	3	3	-
Infectious Diseases	7	-	-	-	-
Hairdressers	12	-	2	1	1
Keeping of Animals	12	-	11	11	-
Noise	140	-	6	6	-
Offensive Accummulations	3	-	3	3	-
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises	97	-	9	10	2
Pet Animals	2	-	-	-	-
Places of Public Entertainment	7	-	-	-	-
Public Conveniences	1	-	1	1	-
Rodent Control Inspections, and re-inspection	1407	-	24	24	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal	131	-	30	30	-
Schools	7	-	1	1	-
Smoke Observations	28	-	7	7	-
Swimming Pools	3	-	-	-	-
Sampling -					
Wat	21	-	-	-	-
Ice-cream	48	-	-	-	-
Other Foods		-	-	-	-
[illegible] Supply	4	-	-	-	-
[illegible]aneous	11	-	-	-	-

Particulars of food complaints from private purchasers (1973)

No.	From.	Nature.	Remarks.
1	Private Purchaser	Poor quality Strawberry Jam	Sample obtained was genuine
2	School (Canteen)	Metal in Corned Beef	See No. 2 on Samples list
3	Private Purchaser	Too much liquid in Sliced Bramley Apples with Currants	See No.1 on Samples list

Particulars of Samples not up to Standard (1973).

No.	Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Remarks.
1	Sliced Bramley Apples with Currants	Not an appropriate designation	Re-labelled by manufacturer
2	Corned Beef	0.23 g - a piece of "tin plate" containing mainly iron	Packers cautioned

Rodent Control.

The Rodent Operator continues to be used on a shared basis with Wirral Urban District Council.

Free treatment is carried out on all domestic premises for the destruction of rats, mice, and insect pests.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

	Non Agricultural.	Agricultural.
Number of premises inspected following notification	242	11
Number infested by (a) Rats	129	11
(b) Mice	94	2
Number of properties inspected for reasons other than notification	698	-

Poisonous Wastes Act, 1972.

No problems have been experienced in this area this year with regard to pollution by poisonous waste.

The Council's tip is used by one major industrial Company for the deposit of waste, the Public Analyst has been consulted over all the various types tipped and all have been found to be inoccuous.

Factories.

The district has a small area confined to light industry with one large international concern and several smaller factories throughout the district.

Clean Air.

The Council have agreed upon a policy of Smoke Control and the division of the district into eight Smoke Control Areas, which will cover the whole of the Urban District. The period of time it is hoped to convert the whole of the district to Smoke Control is ten years. Preliminary work only has been commenced.

Noise.

The investigations and control of noise complaints increasing takes up more of the department's time as the public became more aware of this type of nuisance. Complaints vary greatly from domestic sources to industrial sources.

Swimming Baths.

A small swimming bath is incorporated within a private school in the area for the use of the pupils.

The construction of the Sports Complex jointly by the Neston Urban District Council and Cheshire County Council, which includes a swimming baths is nearing completion.

Caravan Sites.

There is one licensed site within the area for fifteen residential caravans. All facilities are provided and the site is kept in good order.

Shellfish.

There are no layings within the district. Shrimps and prawns sold within the area are quite often from imported sources, and those known as local shrimps are usually caught in the wide estuary of the River, and Liverpool Bay.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

There was one case of food poisoning notified during the year.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

There is one shop licensed for the sale of pet animals.

Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1964.

There are three registered premises under the above named Act.

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